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PATENT SPECIFICATION

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(54) COLLECTORS ITEMS IN THE FIELD OF POSTAGE-STAMP COLLECTING

(71) I, LESLIE JAMES BROWELL of
25 Norris House Drive, Aughton, Ormskirk,
Lancashire L39 5AH, a British Subject, do
hereby declare the invention, for which I
pray that a patent may be granted to me,
and the method by which it is to be per-
formed, to be particularly described in and
by the following statement:—

The present invention relates to
collectors' items in the field of postage-
stamp collecting which is also known as
philately.

Philately is primarily devoted to the
collection of two categories of postage-
stamps, namely, those which have been used
and those which have not. In general, used
postage-stamps are recognised by two
characteristics, firstly, that the adhesive
material or gum originally present on the
reverse side has been used, and secondly,
that the pictorial or face side of the stamp
has been subjected to postmarking for
cancellation purposes. In the case of unused
postage stamps, it is often required that
these be in so-called "mint" condition by
which it is implied that a stamp is sub-
stantially in the same condition as when it
was manufactured. Accordingly a mint
postage-stamp should have still intact, the
whole of the original adhesive material on
its reverse side, and moreover the face side
should be free from blemishes and post-
marking. Many philatelists concern
themselves with the collection of blocks of
two or more stamps of either category; the
stamps of a block being secured together by
boundary perforated regions.

In recent years, the practice of philately
has extended beyond the mere collection
of loose specimens of used and mint
postage-stamps. One philatelic activity,
which is world-wide, concerns the collection
of used stamps and the carriers (or parts
thereof) to which they are attached; a
carrier taking the form of a postal cover (i.e.
an envelope) or a postcard which has been

transmitted to an addressee through the
postal service.

The British Post Office, in common with
many overseas postal administrations, from
time-to-time make available to the public
special, or commemorative, issues of
postage-stamps. Such an issue comprises a
limited number of specimens to be pur-
chased over a fixed period commencing on a
particular day. Accordingly there is a lot of
activity by philatelists to the collection of so-
called "first-day covers", and this is en-
couraged, as a revenue earning function by
the provision of special facilities in the
British Post Office. A first-day cover
comprises an envelope or like carrier with
adherent stamp or stamps cancelled by
postmarking which incorporates the first
day's date of the issue period of the par-
ticular variety of stamps.

One of the before mentioned special
facilities accorded by the British Post Office
is that, in respect of customers who have
standing-order deposit accounts, it agrees to
appropriately stamp, address and postmark
first-day covers and to deliver them to
addressees. As an alternative a collector
may purchase his own stamps and, if
required, special first-day cover envelopes
at a post office, and then place the stamped-
addressed envelopes into a special post-box
for careful attention in respect of post-
marking and subsequent delivery.

The term 'postmarking' as used herein
means the printing of a cancellation mark
onto a stamp by a competent postal
authority.

An object of the invention is to provide
novel forms of philatelic collectors' items
and the manner and means for producing
these items.

According to the invention there is
provided a combination of two or more
postage-stamps attached together by per-
forated regions, characterised in that at least
one of said stamps is cancelled by post-

marking on the face side and, at least one other of them is devoid of cancellation by postmarking and has the original adhesive material unused on its reverse side and in which that or each postage-stamp which has been cancelled has its original adhesive material in the used state on its reverse side.

Also according to the invention there is provided a postal carrier comprising a postal cover, postcard or the like having a slit or pocket, and at least one block of two or more postage-stamps attached together by perforated regions, at least one of said stamps of one block being secured to the carrier by adhesive material on its reverse side and at least on other of the stamps of said block having the original adhesive on its reverse side unused, and being received within said slit or pocket so that its face side is protected from postmarking during mailing.

According to another aspect of the invention there is provided a carrier comprising a postal cover or postcard or a portion thereof carrying at least one combination of two or more postage-stamps attached together by perforated regions, characterised in that at least one of said stamps of a said combination is cancelled by postmarking on the face side and is secured to said carrier by adhesive on its reverse side, at least one other of said stamps of the combination being devoid of cancellation by postmarking and having the original adhesive material unused on its reverse side.

Additionally according to the invention there is provided a carrier comprising a postal envelope carrying a pair of postage-stamps joined together by a perforated region and in which one of said stamps is secured by adhesive to the addressed surface of the envelope and is cancelled by postmarking on the face side, whereas the other stamp is in mint or substantially mint condition, means being provided to protect said other stamp during postmarking and postal transit.

The invention will be better understood from the following description of preferred methods of carrying it into effect which should be read in conjunction with the accompanying drawings comprising Figs 1, 2 and 3. Of the drawings; Fig 1 represents a typical form of "first-day cover" in accordance with the invention in that it displays two postage-stamps linked together by a perforated region with one of the stamps adherent to the envelope face and cancelled by postmarking and with the other stamp in substantially mint condition. Fig 2 is an enlarged view of that area of the first-day cover of Fig 1 but showing the location of the postage-stamps in relation to a slit in the envelope which ensures one of the stamps is protected during postal processing

and transit. Fig 3 shows arrangements which are alternative to those of Fig 2 for preserving the mint condition of the requisite one of the pair of stamps.

Referring to Fig 1 the first-day cover comprises an envelope ENV carrying the name and address of the recipient. Official post office first-day covers often have a pictorial or graphic design P appropriate to the new or commemorative stamp issue. The envelope shown carries two stamps, A and B, of which only the former is cancelled by a postmark PM. Moreover only stamp A has been fixed to the envelope by the adhesive or gum provided on its reverse side. It may be taken that stamp B is in mint condition, or is substantially so, since it is devoid of postmarking and the original adhesive is unused. The preservation of stamp B during postal processing and transit is accomplished by a method demonstrable by Fig 2, wherein a vertical slit SL in the envelope is shown. The slit is slightly longer than the height of the stamps and with the reverse side of the stamps towards the envelope, stamp B is passed through the slit into the interior of the envelop. The perforated region joining the two stamps may be substantially aligned with the slit, but preferably the location of the pair of stamps is adjusted so that said region is slightly to the left of the slit, as shown, so as to afford reasonable protection to the vulnerable perforated region. Stamp A is fixed to the envelope by the application of a little moisture to the gummed surface thereof. Preferably, only the cross hatched area of the stamp A, embracing say $\frac{1}{4}$ ths of the particular face is stuck to the envelope; leaving an unstuck band available for manipulation purposes. Stamp B may be left as shown preparatory to postal transit or it may be folded within the envelope so as to lie directly behind stamp A. In processing the postal packet through the routine of the postal authority, stamp A is subjected to cancellation by postmarking, such as PM, but of course stamp B is obscured and protected and will remain unaffected.

In due course the recipient can withdraw stamp B (still attached to stamp A by the perforated region) through the slit so enabling it to be displayed in mint condition alongside its used partner. The previously mentioned unstuck band of stamp A is intended to make for easier withdrawal of stamp B through the slit without damaging the perforated joint. In addition to providing such an unstuck margin, or as an alternative thereto, the withdrawal of stamp B to its display position may be assisted by duly making suitable incisions in the envelope. Accordingly the effective length of slit SL may be increased by say $\frac{1}{4}$ inch incision from each end thereof, or a similar

leftwardly extending incision may be made from each end of said slit so as to form a hingeable flap.

A pair of stamps joined by a lateral perforated region, and required to be mounted one above the other with respect to the envelope, are readily catered for by the provision of a horizontal (instead of vertical) slit in the envelope.

The use of a pair of stamps in non-abutting relationship but joined together by integral stamp-sheet edging is also readily catered for by the use of an envelope with a suitably dimensioned vertical or horizontal slit.

As an alternative to the use of an envelope with a slit, protection of the unused stamp B of a pair at least during postal processing and transit is afforded by the arrangements shown in Fig 3. These involve the use of a stick-on film PP taking the form of a patch-pocket. The film may be of paper, plastics material or other suitable opaque or transparent material. It is stuck to the envelope by adhesive which is supplied only over the regions of its inner face that are defined by the cross hatching. Preferably the adhesive employed has those characteristics usually attributed to an adhesive incorporating rubber, which if so required will enable the patch-pocket film to be peeled away and any residual adhesive to be cleanly removed by a rolling action imparted by the finger. Obviously the patch-pocket film may be left in situ, as may well be required, particularly if it is of transparent material. If the patch-pocket film is so retained, it may be advantageous to secure the stamp A to the envelope in the manner described with reference to Fig 2; leaving a band along its left-hand edge unstuck. This will allow the stamp to be withdrawn from the pocket for possible overall inspection.

Although the particular embodiments of the invention have been described with reference to so-called first-day covers it is of course equally applicable to postal packages and stamps which are not related to first-day covers.

Also it is to be understood that the arrangements described with reference to Fig 3 are equally applicable to the use of postcards.

WHAT I CLAIM IS:—

1. A combination of two or more postage-stamps attached together by perforated regions, characterised in that at least one of said stamps is cancelled by postmarking as hereinbefore described on the face side and

at least one other of them is devoid of cancellation by postmarking and has the original adhesive material unused on its reverse side and in which that or each postage-stamp which has been cancelled has its original adhesive material in the used state, on its reverse side.

2. A postal carrier comprising a postal cover, postcard or the like having a slit or pocket, and at least one block of two or more postage-stamps attached together by perforated regions, at least one of said stamps of one block being secured to the carrier by adhesive material on its reverse side and at least one other of the stamps of said block having the original adhesive on its reverse side unused, and being received within said slit or pocket so that its face side is protected from postmarking during mailing.

3. A carrier comprising a postal cover or postcard or a portion of either of them carrying at least one combination of two or more postage-stamps attached together by perforated regions, characterised in that at least one of said stamps of a said combination is cancelled by postmarking as hereinbefore defined on the face side and is secured to the carrier by adhesive material on its reverse side, at least one other of said stamps of said combination being devoid of cancellation by postmarking and having the original adhesive material unused on its reverse side.

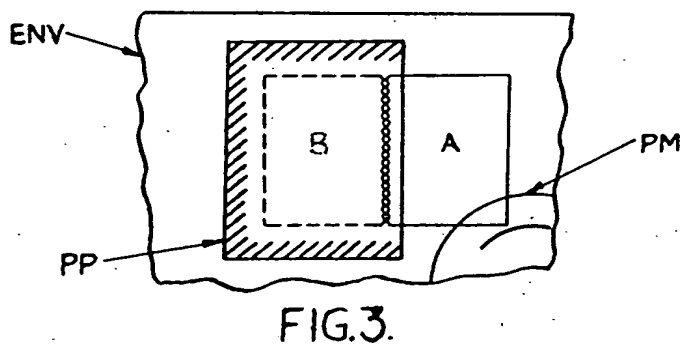
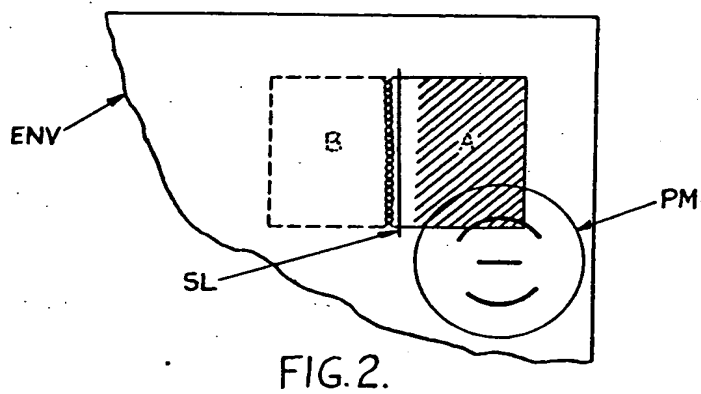
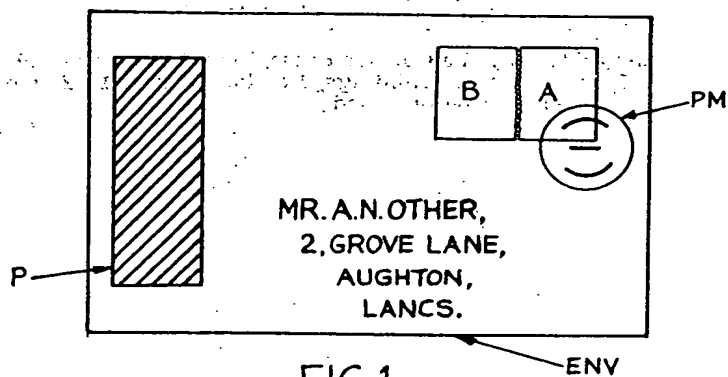
4. A carrier comprising a postal envelope carrying a pair of postage-stamps joined together by a perforated region and in which one of said stamps is secured by adhesive material to the addressed surface of the envelope and is cancelled by postmarking as hereinbefore defined on its face side whereas the other stamp is in mint, or substantially mint condition, having the original adhesive unused on its reverse side, said other stamp being protected during postal transit by positioning it inside the envelope, such positioning being achieved by passing the stamp through a slit provided in the envelope.

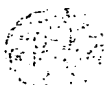
5. A carrier comprising a postal envelope or postcard carrying a pair of postage stamps joined together by a perforated region and in which one of said stamps is secured by adhesive material to the addressed surface of the carrier and is cancelled by postmarking as hereinbefore defined on its face side whereas the other stamp is in mint, or substantially mint condition, having the original adhesive unused on its reverse side said other stamp being protected at least during postal transit by patch-pocket means of the like secured to the carrier.

6. A carrier comprising a postal envelope stamps, substantially as described with or postcard carrying a pair of postage- reference to the accompanying drawings.
L. J. BROWELL.

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